

1417
C A L U M N Y.

BEING

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An A N S W E R

TO

A PAMPHLET AND POEM,



S E D U C T I O N.

L O N D O N,

PRINTED FOR R. BALDWIN, No. 47. PATERNOSTER-ROW.

M D C C L X X X I X

CALUMNY.

BEING

AN ALIEN WORK

TO

A PAMPHLET AND FOR



SEDUCTIVE

TO BE

PRINTED FOR J. B. L. & CO. 10, BROADWAY

NEW YORK

CALUMNY.

BEING

AN ANSWER to a PAMPHLET and POEM,

ENTITLED,

SEDUCTION.

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HARD is the case of that man, and truly to be pitied, whose character hath been attacked in anonymous publications. He is reduced to the most disagreeable necessity of submitting to one or other of two cruel evils: either to sit silent, and thereby seem to admit every calumny that may have been charged; or otherwise, by replying, to furnish further subject of defamation to his hidden enemies. Such is the case of C——l W—— at this present: he hath been charged with a crime which his Soul abhors, by the author of a Pamphlet, or Poem, entitled *Seduction*, who, upon no better authority than what will be here explained, hath strained his talent to paint him the horridest monster on earth. To convince this poet, or any of his tribe, the C——l considers as a thing impossible, and still more so to silence him: but the reasonable and dispassionate he doubts not to convince, and those alone he wishes to convince, of his innocence, by the following reply which this ill-informed and hasty calumniator hath forced him to make.—

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That Mrs. W——, in an evil hour, suffered herself to be prevailed on, at the time of her departure from India, to take charge of Miss F——r, is admitted: And this charge she executed with all the tenderness, or rather the blind partial fondness of a mother. In August, 1779, she was compelled to take her from the Boarding-school: and then intended to have sent her back to India, according to the desire of her parents: but, on finding her shamefully deficient in every part of her education, she thought herself bound in honor to give her masters at home for one year more, under her own eye and authority. During this year the young lady got herself impregnated: and the aforesaid author, in his argument, or prose-part, boldly affirms that “this was done, soon after she came from school, by him who should have been the guardian of her virtue and morals,” meaning C——l W——. And, having thus boldly determined the C——l’s guilt upon the evidence of his own *ipse dixit*, he as boldly determines the young lady’s innocence in that transaction, upon his own ideal proof of her innate purity, chastity, and continence; which he scruples not to compare, throughout his Poem, to that of Lucretia, or even of holy Saints; and from thence deduces this certain conclusion, that such immaculate virtue could not possibly have been contaminated by any man but this modern Tarquin, the C——l; and that too, through means of brutal force, or supernatural seduction—So that he first assumes the C——l’s guilt to prove her innocence, and then makes use of her innocence to prove his guilt.

Indeed, the credit of this wicked contrivance seems to depend, in a great measure, upon the supposed virtue of this imaginary innocent

innocent victim to brutal force, or supernatural seduction; and the burden of the Poem is entirely founded thereon. Yet there is nothing more easy than to subvert this ground-work of the charge against the C——l, by referring those who may think it worth their trouble to enquire, not to poetical fiction, or to such as know as little of the young Lady's real disposition as the Poet himself; but to those, who, by their opportunities, must be supposed properly qualified to pronounce upon her character: such as Mrs. St——n of Queen's Square; at whose Boarding-school she was, until that prudent governess, from a discreet regard to the morals of her school, insisted on Mrs. W——'s taking her away at the time before mentioned.—Or they may enquire at Mrs. B——'s, in Cavendish-Square, a Lady of the chastest principles, who, at Mrs. W——'s earnest request, admitted Miss F——r to pass the days of her vacation from school at her house, until such time as she discovered such ground for apprehending danger to the morals of her own children, as obliged her to dismiss her. Or they may inform themselves from the servants of C——l W——, at whose house she lived after she was sent from school: or at any others sufficiently acquainted with the young Lady; nay, on this head we may venture to appeal even to D——r O——n for his professional opinion of her natural continence. And from all these they will learn that she was, in point of chastity, the very lewdest of her own lewd breed, the Parya; a race to be compared with only the inhabitants of Otaheite: insomuch, that there is very good and sufficient reason to conclude, that it was not the father of this child, whoever he was, but the mother thereof that was the ravisher and seducer.—

This publication of that young Lady's real character will doubtless be 'ycleped horrid cruelty by her champion Poet: but he thought it no cruelty, to falsly and wantonly stab the character of an honest man. The assassins, who forces another to kill him in defence of his own life, has no right to complain of cruelty.

And now, in the words of this Author, we are to sum up his evidence of the C——l's guilt; which he rests upon certain facts, by him termed incontestable.—And the first of these incontestable facts is Miss F——r's solemn declaration, that C——l W—— was the father of her child. To which is opposed C——l W——'s as solemn contre-declaration. Place these two equally solemn declarations in the balance of unprejudiced opinion, and the one must exactly poise the other: if the Author calls in circumstance on his part, the same right must be allowed to the C——l. Thus, when he insinuates, that the dread of shame is such a powerful motive for the C——l's denying the charge, as serves to invalidate the force of his declaration, he must understand that his Heroine had a motive for charging the C——l falsly, that goes no less strongly against the credit of her declaration: inasmuch as, by charging her child to a man so situated with respect to her as the C——l was, she acquired that ingenious plea of *innocence in guilt*, which hath furnished the argument of his most beautiful Poem; whereas, if she had charged it to any one other man, she must have taken the whole load of guilt and shame upon herself. He then undertakes more directly to invalidate the credibility of the C——l's declaration of his innocence, by two facts of which he says the C——l has been convicted.

The first of these facts he terms a deviation from the dictates of honour, and the laws of good neighbourhood; in that “the C——l first discouraged an intimacy between Miss F——r and a very amiable young Gentleman of the Town of S——y; and afterwards personally recommended that match to the father of this young Gentleman.”—Now, as there is an incident in this transaction that may have given a colour for charging the C——l with this inconsistency, it becomes necessary to explain it. That the C——l did ever openly discourage this match is true, and studied to prevent it by every means in his power, saving that one of disclosing to the father the effects of Miss F——r’s incontinence: and his reason for concealing that was, that observing the father was sufficiently determined against the match otherwise, he saw no necessity for disclosing to him this secret, that must prove ruinous to her reputation, and which too he had solemnly promised her to conceal.—But in every other instance his zeal for preventing this dishonourable match was so evident, that it procured him the rancorous and implacable hatred of the young Lady; which she vented on the only occasion in her power, by obstinately refusing, at the time of leaving his house, to appoint him one of her guardians.—The incident that gave the colour alluded to was this. At the time her relation Mr Deveil came to take her from the C——l’s house, she, in despair to see herself thus like to be cut off from all opportunity of ever accomplishing this desired match, wrought on the tenderness of Mrs W——, by floods of tears, to use her influence for obtaining the father’s consent; affirming also that he was not now averse to it.—Mrs W——, being moved by her tears, and ignorant of her guilt, readily undertook this task, and just going down to the parlour where Mr Deveil was with

with the C——l, hastily mentioned her purpose; to which the C——l objected as usual; but, not being at liberty to produce his main objection, he was over-ruled by Mrs W—— and Deveil. The father was immediately sent for; who, as he lived at the very next door, arrived in an instant; when Deveil with all his rhetoric recommended the match, and was seconded by Mrs W——. That the C——l was present is admitted, as also that he did not then object to the proposal: the reason is obvious. But he had determined, in case the father had then assented, to have revealed to him the secret. For this, however, there was no necessity, as the father then declared his determined resolution against the match, for prudential reasons. Can it be said that the C——l by this conduct personally recommended that match? Yet, this is the only ground for that false charge. It may indeed be said, that Deveil did on that occasion act contrary to the rules of honour, because he had long before that been made acquainted with her story; nay, and long after this, when her shame had been made public, he made an underhand attempt on the young Gentleman's weakness, in which he was detected by the father. But C——l W—— does not reckon himself accountable for the conduct of this Deveil; on the contrary, he considers him as a fit guardian for such a ward.

The other fact which he adduces to invalidate the C——l's declaration of innocence, is what he terms a violation of truth, "in that the C——l declared he would not defray the expence attending the maintenance of the child, unless legally obliged to do so; and that he should wait the usual form:" And that "yet, without making a single struggle, or daring to shew his face in Court,

he has tamely acquiesced in the requisition, and has made himself responsible for expences past and future." How cruel is this, to convert an act of generous humanity, though badly bestowed, into a proof of baseness and barbarity in the bestower? As C——l W—— happened to be in London at the time of Miss F——r's delivery, he could not, in his situation, do otherwise than support her, by paying the immediate expence of her lying in, and providing for the future maintenance of her child; which, but for that, must, in the words of the gentleman who took charge of it, have been thrown *sur le pavé*. When Miss F——r quitted the C——l's house, he considered himself no longer bound to defray any part of her expences; and therefore acquainted this before-mentioned Gentleman, that he was to apply to her, or the relation with whom she lived, for the future expence of her child, as also for any arrears that might then be due on that account. And, as neither she nor her new guardian had ever till that period intimated the most distant hint about the C——l's being the father of her child, it may be naturally presumed that it was this demand that suggested the first idea of charging it to him. An idea most happy in the conception, as it tended to transfer from her own shoulders upon his the whole load of the expence, as well as the guilt and shame of her crime: and most easy in the execution, as it demanded only the ordinary exertion of a faculty that she possessed in an incredible degree; impudent, bold, and obstinate lying being a mode of speech far more natural and familiar to her from her infancy upwards than truth. That C——l W—— did, on the first surprise of this unlooked for charge, make such declaration, that he would not pay either the past or future expence of Miss F——r's child, further than the law would compel him,

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is admitted. Accordingly he did take opinion of counsel, and was readily informed, that, notwithstanding the past expence was incurred on the account of Miss F——r, yet, as he was the person who employed or directed the aforesaid Gentleman to take charge of her child, he thereby became responsible, in the first instance, to that Gentleman for such expence. So that here being no ground for contest, he readily submitted to pay that past expence. And with regard to the future expence he quickly learnt, to his great mortification, that the law and custom of this country in these cases neither admits any plea from the party charged, nor requires any manner of proof from the party charging; but, without any other process than the simple oath of the mother, compels any man whom she shall name, to maintain her child, unless he can prove a sufficiently distant *alibi*, which could be no plea for the C——l. And had Miss F——r thought proper to swear her child to this her champion poet, he, in like manner, must have submitted to maintain it. So that in this case, the C——l has done exactly what this poet must have done; and he will not do a jot more. But no doubt what he says of the C——l's tamely acquiescing "without daring to show his face in Court," &c. is calculated to instil an opinion, that he did thus acquiesce for the purpose of evading a legal enquiry. Whereas the very reverse of this is the truth: the C——l has used every endeavour to bring the business into a Court of Justice, but found there was no one possible ground whereon to found an action on his part; and he hath called on, and doth thus publickly call upon his adversaries to bring it forward on their part: being confident and well assured that a legal investigation of this wicked business would bring the contrivers thereof to condign punishment; and is the only course
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that can completely restore his reputation to that fair regard in which it stood, ever until this base attempt was made to stain it. What then becomes of these two facts which this retailer of scandal brings to invalidate the credibility of the C——l's declaration of his innocence? How clearly must that man have carried himself in life, when calumny itself can bring against his integrity only two such instances as these, so easily and clearly refuted? Can this writer so clearly support the credibility of his heroine's declaration, either by her former reputation for veracity, or by any circumstances attending her present charge? He is hereby defied to do this, by any admissible proof. And, for his more ready information on the head of her former veracity, he is referred to the parties formerly quoted on the subject of her innate purity, who alone can be deemed the competent evidences. With regard to the circumstances attending her charge, that one, of her never having thrown out the most distant hint against the C——l, until the demand was made upon her for the expence of her child, near two years after it was born, is alone, and of itself, sufficient to destroy the probability of that charge. Nor will his flimsy excuse of her "inexperience, and the peculiar infelicity of her situation under the seducer's roof," suffice to "account for her concealing the deed, and (pretended) author, for near three years:" Both these reasons being equally false; for, though young, she was deeply experienced and hacknied in the practice of vice and boldness; she had also been removed from the roof of her pretended seducer at least two months before she brought this false charge: and her new guardian to whom she had removed admits, that he had been informed of her story by the C——l many months before. But other circumstances, still more pointed against the probability of

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her charge, will be produced in the proper place. For here we close the evidence respecting this writer's first incontestible fact, "The solemn declaration of Miss F——r."

His next incontestible fact is, "The solemn disavowal of C——l W——'s *quondam* footman, that he, the footman, was the father of Miss F——r's child." But does this writer seriously imagine, that any one in his sober senses will allow a grain of weight to this evidence? Could any thing other than the most childish simplicity and inexperience expect, that a discarded footman would, from no other motive than a regard to truth, avow a fact, the very avowal of which would deprive him of the means to live? Our author adds here, "the total want of one plausible circumstance to bear the C——l out in charging the guilt on the footman." Possibly this author will admit no circumstance to be plausible, less than ocular proof of the fact: but if he will admit of her being seen in the act of embracing and kissing this footman, with many other such feats*, to be plausible circumstances, he, or any one, may obtain certain proof of these facts, from a variety of credible witnesses: *sed satis quod sufficit*: this incontestible fact disposes of itself.

The author's third incontestible fact is, "The positive testimony of D——r O——n, contradicting the C——l's assertion, that Miss F——r in the hour of her extremity declared to the D——r, that the footman was the father of her child"—But that negative testimony

* Affidavits have been taken by C——l W——'s servants, before a proper Magistrate, to the truth of these facts, and other circumstances mentioned here, relating to Miss F——r's conduct in the C——l's house.

testimony of the D—r is, in this case, a meer chip in porridge, making neither for nor against the truth of her having made such declaration: it does not even in the least signify whether such declaration had ever been made or mentioned. Nevertheless, as the C——l thinks it incumbent on him to clear away even the appearance of his having ever declared a falsehood in this business, he to that end gives the following account of this matter; which he declares to be the genuine and simple truth:—That, upon Miss F——r's return from Spain, he came up to carry her from London to S——y: that, after staying for her eight days, he, for the above purpose, and with her previous knowledge, brought a post chaise to the house where she lodged with Major M——e, who was at that time attended by D—r O——n, and is since dead: that, upon going up stairs, he found matters in extreme confusion, occasioned, as he was told, by the D——r's having discovered Miss F——r's pregnancy, which she obstinately denied: that, upon his interrogating her himself, she denied it with the like obdurate obstinacy, declaring she had never known a man; upon which he went into another room: that, some time after, notice was brought him, "That all was now out, she had confessed her being with child, and that it was by a footman of his, called George:" That she immediately after made the same confession to himself; and, in the utmost agony and transports, supplicated him to use every method for concealing her shame, and particularly from Mrs W——d; which he, to calm her, promised; (and, by religiously observing that promise, has given that wicked young creature the opportunity of turning the tables on him;) and that some hours after she fell into labour pains. Now when the C——l, on the first notice of her false charge, mentioned D—r O——n

as the person who brought him the before-mentioned notice of her confession, he had no doubt in his own mind that the D—r was that person: and even now is free to own, that he suspects the D—r may guide himself in this business by professional prudence, as deeming it incumbent on him to avoid appearing as an evidence in certain cases, upon the same principle that the father confessor refuses to reveal the secret of his penitent: and the more so because, on the C——l's intimating that his testimony might be wanted to the aforesaid fact in a Court of Justice, he answered, with much heat, "that he would not have his name brought into a Court of Justice on a business of that nature, for ten thousand pounds." But, even admitting that the C——l's memory may have misled him, in this particular, of the person who brought him the first notice of the aforesaid confession; such an error of his memory in such a trivial particular, that past near two years before, and was but little noticed by him at the time it happened, as not imagining it was ever to come into question, cannot be looked upon as a proof that the confession itself was never made.

The last incontestible fact of this writer, and that on which he most depends, is the C——l's submitting to maintain Miss F—r's child, through fear, as he insinuates, of showing his face in Court. But it hath been already said, on this head, that the C——l hath ever courted a legal enquiry into this wicked business; and wishes most earnestly that there was any possible method of bringing it into a Court of Justice.

And now that all these incontestible facts have been brought to the test, this writer's own question may with propriety be retorted, "Do these facts convict the C——l?"

It remains to reply to that part of this slanderous Pamphlet, which narrates the way and manner how the C——l came to be first charged with this detested crime. In which part, the writer, still proceeding upon the ground of the C——l's being the father of Miss F——r's child as a *datum* or fact granted, makes no scruple of charging him with such horrid circumstances of sordid avarice, treachery, lying, barbarity, and every other vice, as appear to be incompatible with human nature. But, as the credit or belief of the C——l's being this horrid wretch, depends entirely upon the belief of that assumed *datum*, his having been the father of this child, so will the credibility of that said *datum* depend (in reason) upon the credibility, or probability, of his having been the wretch capable of those crimes. For if it can be proved, by every evidence that the nature of the thing will admit, that the C——l was not, or could not be, capable of that sordid avarice, barbarity, &c. with which he is charged, such proof must, in itself, and abstracted from every other proof, go a great way with the dispassionate to destroy the belief of that assumed *datum* or fundamental charge, which gives the stamp and quality to those subsequent acts; constituting them either the blackest crimes, or otherwise just and innocent actions. At all tribunals, where a criminal action charged appears to be dubious, the Court guides itself by a reference to the character or former conduct of the party charged, in such circumstances of his life as come the nearest to the fact then before it. And this is indeed the only guide that human nature can obtain or require in cases of this dubious nature. By this test the C——l wishes to be tried at the tribunal of the public: and it happens that there is a circumstance in his life, which is altogether

together in point to this present. Whilst he was a bachelor in the East-Indies it was his fortune, as it is that of most European bachelors in that country, to have a child born to him by a native woman. And, though it is common for the fathers of such children to leave them to their mothers, with the provision of some trifling sum, and often with no provision at all, yet he, being in far less affluent circumstances than he is at present, sent this his child, being a son, to England; placed him at one of the most expensive Academies about London, where he supported him on a footing with the best of his fellows, and then sent him out in the most genteel and liberal manner in the military service of the East-India Company, in which he now bears a commission. This is a fact easily proved. And will any one believe that a man who, being obliged by no rule, not even of precedent, but acting merely from the spontaneous motion of his own natural disposition, did bestow such marks of tender affection and generous liberality upon this child thus born; will it be believed that this same man would, from no other motive than that assigned by this calumnious writer, the sordid prospect of shifting the expence of a few pounds from himself, act with such shockingly unfeeling barbarity to this other child; which, supposing it to be his, must from a variety of circumstances have held a claim to his tenderness and generosity, so much superior to that first mentioned child: seeing that, besides the very different condition, situation, and relation of the two mothers, he had every motive of self-interest to provide for this later child, had he been the father of it.

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And, lest ingenious calumny should suggest that the C——l may have altered his disposition since then, it is hoped that candour will excuse the mentioning, what on a slighter occasion might appear improper: that even at this day the C——l pays in annual pensions, to persons holding no other claim on him than their necessity, a sum exceeding at least three times what would have sufficed to maintain this child. The proof of which, and many other such acts of spontaneous generosity, can readily be produced. Will candour then, or even common sense, admit that a man, capable of such extensive charity and liberal generosity on every other occasion, could on this one occasion be influenced, “by the mean prospect of shifting the expence of a few pounds from himself,” to commit an action pregnant with such evident circumstances of horrid cruelty, and every other crime as are described by this Author? The nature and quality of the action, being so evidently incompatible with the proved character of the pretended agent, must damn this charge. Barbarity and avarice enter so little into the composition of the C——l, that, notwithstanding the infernal attack made on his character by this abandoned creature, yet generously separating the case of the innocent babe from that of the wicked mother, and considering it as a forlorn being that had been thrown by her unfeeling cruelty upon him and him alone for its support, he had at one time determined, as can be proved, to provide for it in a liberal manner: and would have done it, had not the baseness of the mother and her champion writer, in charging this his liberal purpose to fear of them and the law, obliged him to alter that purpose, in order to convince the world of the falsehood of their assertion.

These things being considered, there appears not the shadow of a reason to suppose that the C——l acted in this affair upon any other principle, than that which is assigned by himself: namely that, as Miss F——r's dependence on him was his only motive for engaging to pay that particular expence of her child, in like manner as all her other expences, so, when that motive ceased, by her ceasing to live under his protection, he chose to devolve that said particular expence, along with all her other expences, upon herself or her new guardian; seeing that, neither she nor her child had any claim to his charity, she having the prospect of a sufficient fortune.

There is another slanderous assertion in that pamphlet, which requires an answer, for no other reason than that the author and his abettors might, otherwise, think it unanswerable. This is the pretended confusion observed by the guardian in the C—I at the time of his making the dreadful discovery (of Miss F—r's incontinence;) which, with other concomitant circumstances, led the said guardian to suspect the C—I himself to be the guilty man, &c.—Now if this writer should be called upon to produce his authority for thus roundly affirming that story, of the C—I's confusion, he certainly can produce none, but that of this said guardian himself, seeing no third person is pretended, or can be supposed to have been present on that occasion. And this is an authority that will bear the mentioning only to such as are altogether unacquainted with the real character of this said guardian; who hath been himself the sole fabricator of that, as well as every other part of this wicked contrivance; seeing the young Lady herself, though possessing all the disposition, is knowingly

devoid of the capacity to either contrive or conduct such a plan. It becomes unnecessary to call in any foreign proof of the want of veracity in this man, who, after having been foiled in every attempt to live in divers parts, hath within this year or two taken upon him a holy function: seeing that, in this present business, he hath been convicted in such instances of misrepresentation, self contradiction, and even wanton falsehood, as alone would suffice to destroy the credit of any man.—But let any one judge, from the following simple account of the reason why, and manner how the C——l came to reveal that said dreadful secret to this man, whether there can be any probability that this pretended confusion existed.

The attempt which the C——l had made to send out Miss F——r to her parents in India, having failed, through the capture of the ship in which she embarked, the effects of her incontinence were discovered in a few days after her return to London. And, as no safe opportunity of again trusting her on board a ship was likely to offer soon, the C——l became exceedingly anxious to rid himself, by some more speedy means, of a charge that was become thus disgraceful, and on other accounts altogether intolerable.—With that view he, on coming to London in October or the beginning of November 1781, applied to this Deveil, her relation and present guardian, who happened to have charge of her younger sister, and told him that he expected soon an answer to a letter, wherein he had requested the father of Miss F——r to devolve the charge of her upon him, Deveil; and assigned, in reason for wishing to get her out of his house as soon as possible, not only the general one of her having become perfectly un-

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vernable through Mrs W——'s partial fondness; but also other reasons that were altogether local. For that she, having got herself debauched and impregnated by a footman of his (the circumstances of which he then narrated,) she was so far from showing any compunction, that, whenever she came in the way of this footman, who, though discharged from his service, still remained in the town, she discovered, by her behaviour to him, that she wanted only an opportunity to repeat her crime. And also, because she had engaged in a matrimonial intrigue with a young Gentleman living next door to him (the C——l) which would prove very disgraceful to him if it should succeed; and of which there was great reason to apprehend; because, notwithstanding he had used every method in his power to prevent it, by shutting up a window through which they held nocturnal conversation, and otherwise, yet had he very lately intercepted a letter, wherein she had invited the young Gentleman to take a trip to Scotland with her.

Now, what reasonable ground doth appear for the C——l's having been in confusion at relating any part of this story. Or, if a confusion was to be supposed, would it not be more natural to impute it to the shock he might feel from the necessity of revealing, to a man he had barely seen, the abandoned wickedness of this his young relation.—For it is altogether unnatural to assign such supposed confusion to the cause which they insinuate: seeing that, if the C——l had had any reason for being confounded on his own account, he never would voluntarily, and of his own accord, have subjected himself to such confusion, by revealing a secret, which, as appears from their own account of the story,

story, he could have kept from the knowledge of that relation, and of every one besides, for an expence not worth his notice.

The “concomitant circumstance that served to fix the guardian’s suspicion” is explained, by a note in the Pamphlet, to be “the young Lady’s unconquerable opposition to the proposal of chusing the C——l one of her guardians.” But it hath been before explained here, and truly, that this unconquerable opposition of the young Lady, was owing to her rancorous resentment of the C——l’s unconquerable opposition to her so much desired marriage.

This author then proceeds to relate, that “a favourable opportunity having offered for communicating to her (Miss F——r) the affair, according to the C——l’s representation, she, fired with indignation, and shocked with horror (*&c.*) discovered what no antecedent hints or gentle persuasions could extort from her, that the C——l was himself the guilty man.”——Now, notwithstanding this writer avoids, for evident reasons, to condescend upon the time when this favourable opportunity offered, yet the guardian’s own original narrative, upon which this writer’s whole fable is founded, and which luckily has fallen into the C——l’s hands, where it now is, fixes this favourable opportunity to have offered at the before-mentioned time, when that guardian came to take away Miss F——r from the C——l’s house. And it will appear very extraordinary, that neither this guardian himself, nor his wife, to whom this dreadful discovery is, in the narrative, pretended to have been made, and whose pert loquacity is so remarkable, should, during the whole week they lived at the C——l’s

house on that occasion, drop not the most distant hint to him of such discovery. They do not even themselves pretend to have intimated so much as a suspicion of this discovery, either to the C——l himself, or to any one else, ever until that remarkable epocha of the demand made upon them for the expence of the child; which was about two months after the time when, according to the said narrative, that favourable opportunity and consequent dreadful discovery had happened. And then indeed, or soon after that demand had reached them, Deveil sent over his astonishing charge to the C——l: which, by the by, contradicts, in certain particulars, that often mentioned narrative; this later having been a production posterior to the former by at least three weeks.—But, if the C——l's solemn declaration may weigh against Deveil's narrative, there could be no reason for the young Lady's firing, &c. in the manner described, at Deveil's communicating to her the C——l's representation of her story, because Deveil could not possibly communicate any one circumstance then, that had not been communicated to her by the C——l himself about seven months before; seeing that, soon after his return from London in the November preceding, he informed her that he had revealed her whole story to this same Deveil, in the manner herein before recited: adding, at the same time, that, when she left his house, she must find some other method of paying for her child.

That Pamphlet then proceeds thus: "The declarations she made in private to her guardian, she again reiterated, with the most solemn appeals to ALMIGHTY GOD, for the truth of them, in the presence of the same Gentleman, the seducer, and his wife, and a Gentleman in the commission of the Peace."

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Many other solemn circumstances, said to have happened at that interview, are added by Deveil in his narrative. But it happens unluckily for Deveil that, on this one occasion, an indifferent person, the aforesaid Magistrate, was present; and still more so that, by the encomiums he hath bestowed in his narrative upon that Magistrate's candour, he hath precluded himself from objecting to his evidence. For this same Magistrate hath and doth affirm that, instead of these solemn declarations and appeals so pathetically painted in the Pamphlet and Narrative, Miss F——r could not be prevailed on, though pressed and urged in the strongest manner, to rehearse one single circumstance of the charge she had brought against the C——l: that she would not even open her mouth, until, at last, Deveil himself leading her by questions, she replied by a simple Yes or No to those questions, as it suited. Neither was this same obstinate silence owing in the least to shame or bashfulness: for, instead of that, the same Magistrate adds that, in the temper of mind and disposition he then observed her to be, he would not have tendered an oath to her for the universe, and for that reason declined it.—Now, how can this obstinate silence be accounted for, but that it had been enjoined her: lest, by attempting to enter into any detail of particulars herself, she should be caught tripping in her lesson: and so, that safer mode, of question and answer, had been adopted.

And here it may not be improper to introduce the evidence given by that same Magistrate, to the truth of a fact that hath been mentioned here before, but which these calumniators have thought proper to dispute, that the C——l intended to have
carried

carried Miss F——r down to S——y on that very day when the discovery of her pregnancy was made in the manner before recited; that the post-chaise was actually brought to the house where she lodged; and that the C——l, on going up-stairs to take her away, was prevented by the aforesaid astonishing discovery. For the said Magistrate declares, that the C——l dined with him that very day, and at an hour earlier than his usual, for the reason that the C——l had proposed to carry Miss F——r two or three stages that evening on her way to S——y; and that the C——l did, immediately after dinner, hurry from his house for the aforesaid declared purpose; with other circumstances undeniably proving that fact.—Now, the reason why these calumniators affect to discredit this fact is, that, if admitted, it goes to entangle them in the following dilemma, evidently tending to subvert their whole fabric, that, on the one hand, no one will believe that Miss F——r, being so near her delivery, would have concealed her situation from the C——l, if he had been the cause of it, and who had been then eight days in town with her: and that, on the other hand, it will appear equally incredible that the C——l, if he had been conscious of her situation, and that he was the cause of it, would have been so mad or befotted as to carry her down in that situation to his own wife.

Nay, Deveil himself inserts, in his aforesaid original Narrative, a circumstance that would serve to prove the C——l's perfect ignorance of Miss F——r's pregnancy, ever until after it had been discovered by others, and confessed by herself in the manner aforesaid. For this said Narrative relates that, the
C——l

C——l going into Miss F——r's room, after that often recited discovery and confession, she then acquainted him, that she was with child; and that he thereupon exclaimed, "Good God, I hope it is not by me!" An exclamation which he could not possibly be supposed to then make, if Miss F——r had, ever before that moment, revealed to him her situation. This anecdote of the exclamation is inserted in the Narrative as a part of the aforefaid dreadful discovery made by Miss F——r; and it would seem that it has been so inserted there, for the purpose of connecting or corroborating other parts, and to clinch as it were and rivet the whole; but that, when this Narrative came to fall under the inspection of heads more subtle than Mr. Deveil's, it had been discovered that the above anecdote rather drove the nail beyond the head, and would entangle them in the dilemma just mentioned. For it is sedulously omitted in the Pamphlet:

There is indeed one of those calumniators who, being forced by his own personal knowledge to admit that fact of the C——l's certain purpose to carry Miss F——r down to S——y on the day mentioned, hath discovered a most ingenious salvo against the force of the before-mentioned dilemma, by affirming that Miss F——r was herself ignorant of her situation until it was so discovered by others, and therefore could not till then reveal it to the C——l. But, leaving it to him and others skilled in obstetric mystery to decide the possibility of a woman's being ignorant that she was with child when within a few hours of her delivery, his salvo can be completely defeated by proof that Miss F——r had industriously made use of methods to conceal
her

her pregnancy from the observation of persons, into whose company she had occasion to come dressed some days before her delivery, which methods she would not have used had not she been conscious of her condition.

There is still one other anecdote in that Narrative, which hath been suppressed in the Pamphlet, no doubt for the same reason as the preceding one: and that is, in the phrase of the said Narrative, the place where, the manner how, and the time when, the young Lady is there said to have been ruined and impregnated by the C——l. The place or scene is laid in Mrs. W——'s dressing-room: and, in that particular, either the C——l or the Narrator hath acted with extreme imprudence and indiscretion, in thus chusing a room the most improper in the whole house for the purpose of committing a premeditated rape on an obstinately virtuous young Lady. For this room, though called a dressing-room, is in fact a common sitting and breakfasting-room, ever open; and is indeed an ordinary thoroughfare, or passage, for at least the female part of the family to other parts of the house. And, notwithstanding the Narrator hath disposed of Mrs. W——d for that evening, by sending her out on a visit, from which the C——l excused himself by pretending sickness, for the aforesaid premeditated purpose; yet hath he forgot to dispose of the maid-servants, being four in number. But this oversight was no doubt owing to his ignorance of, or inattention to, the nature and situation of the room in which he laid his scene.

As to the manner how Miss F——r is said by the Narrator to have been *ruined* and *impregnated* by the C——l, it happens rather unluckily for him, that he hath, both in his Narrative and in that previous charge mentioned to have been sent to the C——l, expressly connected the cause and the effect both in one act: because, the deflowering and impregnating a subject so young, as she is described to have been, by one and the same act, must appear a point at least problematical to many. This, however, being a circumstance but little wanted, is left to the discussion of professional skill.

But he will find it more difficult to reconcile a certain incongruity in the article of the young Lady's gestation, with reference held to the time which he hath chosen to assign for her having been impregnated, and the well ascertained time of her delivery. For the time of her delivery is certainly known to have been about the beginning of November, 1780; and the time of impregnating is, by his account, *soon* after she left school; that is, *soon* after the month of August, 1779. But, if any rational limits or meaning shall be affixed to his term *soon*, the distance betwixt *soon* after the month of August 1779, and November 1780, will appear an incredibly long gestation: and still more so when it is known that the *Accoucheur* declares, she was actually delivered at seven months. But this difficulty may possibly be got over by the same method as some others have been: the *Accoucheur* has only to affirm that, instead of seven months, he meant to say she went seventeen months; as that will agree more nearly with the Narrator's time of impregnating.

E

Thus

Thus every fact and circumstance, charged in either that Pamphlet or Narrative, hath been replied to: and in a manner that is presumed will fully satisfy every sensible and dispassionate mind of the wicked falsehood of this charge brought against C——l W——d. More particularly when consideration is held to the very disadvantageous situation in which he stood, with respect to the party charging him, and the circumstances of the fact with which he is charged; where every step which his humanity and tenderness prompted him to take for concealing the shame of a young creature that was totally dependent on him, was of a nature capable to be converted, by artful and unprincipled villainy, into a probable argument or proof, that he himself was a party in the guilt or shame, which he thus exerted himself to conceal. To absolutely prove a negative, in a case circumstanced as his is, even in a court of justice, before discerning judges, where every circumstance would be thoroughly sifted, might be attended with some trouble: but to absolutely justify himself to those coffee and tea drinking judges in S——y, who, in their new adopted phrase, have made up their minds, or, in other words, have determined not to suffer reason and truth to alter the opinion they have once declared, he neither expects nor wishes. It is not for their satisfaction he has published this his justification: but for that of the candid and generous.

For the rest, having thus given a full account of his conduct in this affair, he hereby announces to the poultry tribe of grammatical poets and scribblers, that he hath laid aside his pen, and will henceforth make use of other weapons suited to their condition.

tion. He hath, by public notice, assigned the term of three weeks to the writer of that scurrilous libel, entitled Seduction; which is not yet expired: if he shall, in that time, declare himself, the C——I hath engaged to treat him as a Gentleman: but, if he shall continue to secrete himself, the C——I will, after that time, make use of the method commonly practised to unkennel such noxious vermin: and in that case he must lay his account to be treated as he deserves.

The hurry in which this Reply hath been printed will, it is hoped, plead excuse for any inaccuracies therein. And will likewise account for not inserting certain testimonies to the truth of facts here mentioned, which have arrived too late. In particular that of a Lady well known and highly respected in S——y; who, having been present at that interview with the father of Miss F——r's *inamorato*, attests all the circumstances thereof, as here mentioned. And further declares that, having on that same occasion pressed Miss F——r to give her reasons for refusing to choose C——I W——d for one of her guardians, she confessed that she had been enjoined so to do by the wife of Deveil.—As this was a circumstance till now unknown to the C——I, he naturally assigned that refusal to another known and obvious cause. But this circumstance being known, and when at the same time it shall be considered that, by such a manoeuvre, this Deveil has got into his own sole management a large fortune belonging to Miss F——r and her younger sister, and that he hath lately set out post for India to get that fortune into his possession, such consideration will serve

to unravel the whole mystery of this contrivance: and likewise furnishes strong reason for concluding, that the now completely unfortunate Miss F——r hath, in this whole business, acted as the involuntary instrument of this De-veil: as it is evident to every one, that he acts in all things as the instrument of his still more artful wife.

E N D



